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General Assembly

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Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Preparatory Committee
First session
Geneva, 14-15 July 2014
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Organization of work

Suggested arrangements for accreditation and participation in the preparatory process and in the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. The General Assembly in resolution 68/211 recognized the importance of the contributions and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including major groups, non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions and the private sector at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its preparatory process. The General Assembly further decided that non-governmental organizations and other major groups whose work is relevant to the subject of the Third World Conference that are not currently accredited by the Economic and Social Council as non-governmental organizations, as well as those accredited to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, the four sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional platforms and ministerial meetings on disaster risk reduction, may submit applications to participate as observers in the Conference, as well as its preparatory meetings, subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that the rules of procedures of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the Preparatory Committee, as applicable, and that the Preparatory Committee shall consider and adopt the provisional rules of procedure of the

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Conference, taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly, except as otherwise provided in this resolution.

3. The present report contains arrangements on accreditation criteria and procedures for those non-governmental organizations and other major groups currently not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and participation of major groups in the World Conference and its preparatory process. These proposals are based on the arrangements used for the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction and guided by General Assembly resolution 68/211. Proposals for the rules of procedure at the Conference will be presented in a separate document.

II. Accreditation criteria and procedures

4. Non-governmental participation in the Conference and its preparatory process is subject to the aforementioned rules of procedure. Interested non-governmental organizations and other major groups whose work is relevant to the subject of the Conference that are currently accredited by the Economic and Social Council and wish to participate in the World Conference or sessions of its Preparatory Committee, should pre-register online (http://www.wcdrr.org/majorgroups).

5. Those non-governmental organizations and other major groups not having the consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, but wishing to attend and contribute to the Conference and its preparatory process may apply to the Conference secretariat for that purpose. Such special accreditation will be limited solely to the World Conference and its preparatory process.

6. The application requires the submission of the following information:

(a) Name of the organization and pertinent contact information, such as address and main contact details;

(b) Purpose of the organization;

(c) Programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the subject of the World Conference and indicating in which country, or countries, they are carried out;

(d) Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international levels;

(e) Copies of annual or other reports of the organization, with financial statements and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;

(f) A list of the members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality (for international organizations);

(g) A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of the organizations that are members and their geographical distribution;

(h) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization; and

(i) A completed online registration form.

7. Deadlines for submitting accreditation applications are:

Preparatory Committee, first session	15 May 2014
Preparatory Committee, second session	15 September 2014
World Conference	30 November 2014

8. Applications for special accreditation should be made online at http://www.wcdrr.org/majorgroups. The Conference secretariat, with support from United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service and others, as appropriate, will review the relevance of the work of the applicants on the basis of their background and involvement in sustainable development issues, particularly in the areas of disaster reduction. If the evaluation shows, on the basis of the information provided, that the applicant organization is competent and its activities relevant to the work of the World Conference, the Conference secretariat will recommend to the Preparatory Committee, for its decision, the accreditation of those non-governmental organizations and other major groups. In cases where such recommendation is not made, the Conference secretariat will make available to the Preparatory Committee the reasons for not doing so. The Conference secretariat will submit its recommendations to the Preparatory Committee for review and endorsement.

9. A non-governmental or other major group organization that has been granted accreditation to attend a session of the preparatory committee may attend all of its future sessions and the Conference itself.

III. Modalities for participation in the preparatory process and the Conference

Participation in sessions of the Preparatory Committee

10. Representatives of accredited non-governmental organizations and other major groups may address the plenary sessions of the Preparatory Committee. Given the short duration of each session of the preparatory committee, however, it is requested that statements be made available in writing for electronic distribution.

Participation modalities at the Conference

11. Accredited non-governmental organizations and other major groups will have direct access to the official Conference venue. For security and safety reasons, on some days of the Conference, a limit on the number of major group participants may need to be established. The Conference secretariat will inform the major groups regarding these arrangements through the Conference website.

12. A small, but representative, number of participants from major groups will be invited to address the plenary. Individual speakers will be identified through the self-organized mechanisms of the major groups, in coordination with the President of the Conference, through the Conference secretariat.

13. At the Conference, a number of stakeholder events and activities are expected to take place with major groups and Governments as parallel events. The details and topics of these events will be announced once they are further clarified.